

Frequently Asked Questions for Families

How will parents and families be informed about outbreaks in their schools?

In Fern Ridge School District, we will use phone calls as our primary notification method to communicate information. Parents and families will be informed about how their children were exposed, such as whether it was in a classroom or other part of the school, but they will not be given any information about the identity of the individual to whom they were exposed to protect that individual's confidentiality.

How else will the district communicate the latest information about COVID-19?

In emergency situations, Fern Ridge School District relies on three methods of communication:

1. District Auto-dialer
2. Website homepage for alerts and notifications
3. Social Media

What information will be shared when there is an outbreak at my child's school?

Schools are required to protect student privacy under the federal FERPA law. Schools can maintain this privacy right by adhering to the letter templates above, consulting with legal counsel, or reviewing [FERPA requirements](#) in light of their own tools for communication.

We value protecting the identities of individuals. Schools are discouraged from providing any personally identifiable information and should consider the cohort size when notifying a small group of direct exposure. *Schools continue to be able to share students/staff specific information with the LPHA as needed for case investigation and contact tracing.

Will I know whether there was a sick person in my child's classroom?

All staff and students who have come into close contact with the individual will be informed. We value protecting the identities of individuals. In some schools and locations, disclosing this information could lead to identification of individuals who test positive or may be ill. Sharing the identity is an unauthorized disclosure of personal health information, and could result in stigmatization of these individuals and their families.

When is it necessary to quarantine?

An exposure is defined as an individual who has close contact (less than 6 feet without a mask or 3 feet wearing a mask) for longer than 15 cumulative minutes in a day with a person who has COVID-19 case.

- If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, then the LPHA should be consulted to review the situation.
- **If a school cannot confirm that 6 feet of distancing (or 3 feet of distancing wearing a mask) was consistently maintained during the school day, then each person the confirmed case was in contact with will need to quarantine** – this could include all members of a stable cohort.
- See the [COVID-19 Exclusion Summary Guide](#) for exclusion and isolation protocols for sick students and staff identified at the time of arrival or during the school day.

As a reminder: CDC guidance states that people who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19. This protects the student's access to in-person learning, sports and extracurricular activities. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, or 2 weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.